AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Sickneſs and Death

OF

Dr. W---DW---RD;

As alſo, of what appear'd upon opening his BODY.

In a Letter to a FRIEND in the COUNTRY.

By Dr. TECHNICUM.

Vitaque cum gemitu fugit indignata ſub umbras.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

SIR,

I Heartily condole with you and the reſt of the *Literati*, on the Death of our dear Friend Dr. *W-dw-d*, and have tranſmitted, according to your Deſire, a brief Account of his Illneſs and Behaviour before he dyed, and the moſt remarkable *Phenomena* upon Diſſection. When he firſt publiſhed his *State of Phyſick, &c.* No Man was more vivacious and alert, from a keen Appetite and a good Digeſtion, he entertain'd the Hopes of a long Life, and promiſed himſelf that his *Lacteals* were very numerous. On the other hand he was ſatisfied, from the *Redundancy of his Diſcoveries*; that he was the *Columbus* of the Faculty, and the greateſt *Genius* that ever appear'd in it; that he ſhould have *Statues* erected to him, and his Works be tranſlated into all Languages. But when he found, poor Gentleman, his Miſtake; that his Writings were the Jeſt of the Town and Country, and admitted even into the Farce of *Harlequin* and *Scaramouch*, he began to loſe, in ſome meaſure, his *indelible* ſort of Kindneſs for the *Children* of his Brain, and to lament the Unhappineſs of *diſtreſs'd Merit*. I obſerv'd, that *Garth*'s *Diſ-*

penſary, which he quoted at random in his *Illneſs*, was of mighty conſolation to him; not upon the account of the Morality of the Piece, but becauſe it highly delighted him to conſider, that if a Satyr was levell'd againſt the whole Profeſſion, any ſingle Member might endure it with greater Patience and Reſignation. However, that the Doctor might not ſtand alone in a Controverſy, he and I compoſed a little *Tract* which we thought would have demoliſh'd the *Triumvirate*: For tho' neither of us alone were able to encounter our Antagoniſts, yet the Cauſe muſt neceſſarily be ſucceſsful, from ſuch a *formidable Confederacy* of Wit, from the united Talents of a *Mathematical* Divine, and a *Foſſiliſtical* Practitioner.

But this Stratagem failing alſo, and the Pamphlet being return'd on our hands by the Bookſeller, the Dr. grew immediately *chagrin* and *melancholly*. I cannot ſay indeed but after the firſt Attack of his Diſeaſe, he would ſhew, at Intervals in Converſation, a Serenity of Temper entirely diſpaſſionate, which might be conſtrued by his Enemies perhaps the moſt *conſummate Impudence*. In Company with his own Fraternity he carried on the ſame *Air* of *Unconcern*, took place of his Juniors, as he has confeſs'd, and ſeem'd extravagantly full of Glee, that he was arrived in a Circle as it were to his old Station, and likely to rejoice again in the Capacity of a *Foreman*. But his Diſtemper grew upon him by degrees, and began to be attended with *Phenomena* that were not *genuine* and *uſual*. What to call it I could not learn from his Phyſicians, nor is it at all material; for all Diſeaſes ariſing from an *Exuberance* of the *Bilioſe Salts*, there is no occaſion for Diviſions, nor

is there any difference, according to the Notions of our departed Friend, between the Cauſe of an *Apoplexy*, or *Furor Uterinus*. 'Tis plain that, by his over great Solicitude and Grief, the *Salts*, which ſerv'd for his Digeſtion, were otherwiſe employed, and, the Phlegm becoming *ſtagnate*, the *Salts* increaſed in Number, and by the *Steam* of their *Collactations* occaſioned an *Inflation of the Stomach*. According therefore as the Organs were *incommoded* and *embaraſs'd*, he was affected with a Variety of Symptoms; ſometimes he would have a Faintneſs and Swooning on him, and be puſillanimous and dejected: I have ſeen him throw himſelf into a Difficulty of Breathing, by pouring forth a Torrent of *rugged Epithets* upon his Adverſaries; but upon an accidental *Cloſure* of the upper Orifice of the Stomach, he would begin to *whoop* and *hiccough*, and be troubled with Choakings, Startings, and Strangulations. The Furr and foulneſs of his Tongue were remarkable, and his beſchings were ſower, noiſome and fœtid, tho' generally nothing elſe but *Wind*. His Aſpect was convulſed into a *Grimace*, yet the Heat and Flushing of his Face was never intenſe enough, as I perceiv'd, to make him *bluſh*. The *Salts* indeed, being a little overheated, excited ſomething bordering upon that *harſh*, *uneaſy*, and *offenſive Senſation*, call'd a *Feaver*; and in fine, Sir, the *Bile* being highly *vitiated*, annoyed the Organs, indiſpoſed the Frame, and made ſuch a Confuſion and Perturbation in his Brain, as to bring on *Madneſs and Deliria*. His Power of thinking was ſo depraved, perverted, and confounded, that every thing he uttered for the laſt ten Days, was nothing elſe but the confuſed Images of Things and Perſons he had been engaged with. Laughing, Weeping, Anxiety, and Suſpicion, were

the kindeſt Symptoms; for he would frequently foam at Mouth, bite and bark like a *mad Dog*.

Dr. *Byſield*, Dr. *Tripe*, *Elkanah Settle*, and My Lord *Peterborough*, were moſtly the Objects of his Rage: but if he ſpoke a Line of Senſe, he would run immediately into a *Hotch-potch*, as he us'd to call it, concerning *Graduates*, *Creeds*, *Proceſſions*, *Reliques*, *Extreme Unction*, *Gotham Correſpondence*, *Father Grueber*, *the Devil*, *and the Pretender*.

While he retained his Senſes he would be ſatisfied with nothing but his own *Method*, and he had, every day, for above twenty Days together, a *Clyſter*, a *Purge*, and a Quart or two of *Oyl*. His Phyſicians, as he approach'd his latter End, directed him ſome other Medicines, which he ſometimes took, but even in his Rayings he would call aloud for an *Emetic*, and be impatiently craving after *Oyl*.

He took a Vomit the very Day he dyed, nay almoſt the very Minute; and as he was expiring, let fall the large *Cockle-ſhell* of Sack-Whey, out of which he uſed to drink.

I have been, Sir, more particular in this Relation, to obviate the Miſrepreſentations of two different ſorts of People. Some there are, who have had the folly to declare that the Doctor dyed immediately of a Fright at the Appearance of the *late Meteor*; others again, with an Impudence never to be paralleld, affirm him now to be alive. To the firſt I anſwer, that 'tis irrational to ſuppoſe ſuch a *Phenomenon* could be terrible to

one who has been always prying into *Grotto's* and *Volcanoe's*, and the Wonders of the Creation. 'Tis true he saw it, but at that time was incapable of giving any tolerable Account of it. In short, he was out of order long before, and departed this Life on the first Instant, which, whether *ominous* or not, I shall not take upon me to determine.

To the second there is nothing scarcely can be said, for a Man must be lost to all Modesty and common Sense, who will affirm a thing, which if he'll but go to *Gresham*, is in his Power to contradict. With these very Eyes, I declare to you, I saw him make his *Exit*, which I will attest upon Oath if required: But I need not, Sir, be at the pains to convince you, or any Man, who is acquainted with my Character, and knows what regard the Court of Equity has for my Veracity, I speak this with the more Warmth, because I am satisfied, notwithstanding our *Verbum Sacerdotis* is pawn'd for it, that there are some who will still insist upon his being now living, and I design to caution a certain *Bookseller* near *St. Paul's*, who, I hear, has more than once reported it; for as I am his *Executor*, I am told it will *bear an Action*. What will still indeed confirm the World in this Notion, is, that some about him, who thought every thing he said must necessarily be good, have already printed all the *Remains* of his *Delirium*. This however is my Comfort, tho' I shall see him *personated*, and several *Pieces* published under his *Name*, yet, as his Language and Ideas are inimitable, the wiser part of Mankind must discover the *Imposture*.

I ſhall give you a full Account of his Works in a little time, I am ſcarce as yet Maſter enough of his Phyſick, in which he moſtly follow'd the *Germans*; this I am ſure, he was a good *Naturaliſt*, and very communicative of his *Foſſils*; in his Religion I had, you know, well grounded him, and he ſeem'd to exceed my ſelf in the Belief of thoſe *Principles* I had inſtill'd.

He was a true Philoſopher in Temper, and as he deſired not to want, ſo he never abounded in his Circumſtances. I ſhall get but a very Trifle by his Kindneſs to me, I believe his *Knicknackatory* may defray the Expences of his *Funeral* and pay the *Druggiſt* for *Ipecacuanha*, and I hope the Chariot and Horſes will diſcharge the other leſſer Matters. His *Oylman* (for an *Apothecary* he ſeldom uſed) ought to be very reaſonable in his Bill, conſidering what Advantages accrued to him from his Recommendation. I heard him ſay not long ago (and no Man was more *punctual* in his Arithmetic) that in the Courſe of his Practice he had adminiſter'd 20473 *Vomits*, 756 Hogſheads 4 Gallons and a Pint of *Sack-Whey*, and above 50 Tun of *Oyl*.

But before I take leave it will be expected I ſhould ſay ſomething for the ſatisfaction of the *Ladies*, who will be inquiſitive of *what Sex* he dyed: The Account of his Diſſection will inform them in that Particular; (and altho' from the Softneſs of his Voice ſomething may have been ſuggeſted to his Diſadvantage in their Eſteem, yet I know not whether that Conſtitution is not more eligible, that inclines one to the *Gout* of *Italy* and *Spain*, and gives a Man a ſtronger reliſh for the more *manly* Pleaſures of thoſe *warmer Climates*.

His

His Body, purſuant to his own Deſire, was open'd by Mr. *Marten*, in the Preſence of three or four *foreign Virtuoſo's*: The Complection of the Skin was party-colour'd, and had ſomething of the *Tarniſh and Sully* natural to a Jaundice. We firſt view'd the *Abdomen*: The *Muſculus Rectus* continued fleſhy to the very middle of the *Sternum*, before it began to be tendinous, as is obſerv'd in the *Simia*; (*a*) Which Contrivance of Nature no doubt facilitates the *rigling Motion* of that Animal. The *Omentum*, the main Fund of the Fat, which ſhou'd have been the *Guard* againſt the Attacks of the *Biliose Salts*, was periſh'd, diſſolv'd, and quite gone. The Stomach appear'd extremely inflated; and plainly made ſuch a preſſure upon the *Curbe of the Aorta*, that there was ſcarce any Paſſage left thro' the deſcending Trunk. In the Cavity of the Stomach, as an ocular Proof of his Doctrine, preſented it ſelf an incredible Quantity of *Bile*, ſufficient to produce that *Modulation upon the Brain*, which he gave the firſt hint of to the World. The inner Surface was entirely ſmooth; not a Footſtep of the *Velvet Tunicle* remaining: this was perhaps from the conſtant Uſe of drinking Gallons of Sack Whey with his Vomits. The Aperture of the *Pylorus* was very extraordinary, 'twas big enough to admit a Man's Thumb: And indeed while he continued ſenſible, he often ſaid, ſo it would be found upon Diſſection: For in all that time he obſerv'd, that the *Pylorus* never wou'd cloſe, ſo as to give him the Refreſhment even of a Slumber. Towards the *Pylorus*, within the Stomach, was plac'd a fleſhy Subſtance, reſembling, tho' ſet at a greater Diſtance, that in the *Hog kind*; (*b*)

(*a*) *Blaſius de Anatom. Simiæ.*
(*b*) *Grew's Comparat. Anatom. Blaſius de Anatom. Porci.*

to which *Species*, eſpecially the *Tajacu* or *Opoſſum* (c) this *Phænomenon* is ſo peculiar. Anatomiſts look upon this as a *Stopple*, which is of great ſervice in the Cloſure of the *Pylorus*. (d) Hence another Reaſon may be deduc'd for his want of Sleep, this Inſtrument not being, in him, ſituated near enough to act a part in this Affair.

Throughout the whole Tract of the Inteſtines, there was nothing very remarkable beſides an exceeding Flatulency, and great Gluts of *vitiated Bile*: There were alſo large Quantities of *Oyl* floating about, undigeſted and unalter'd. At the *Anus* was a *Ficus* of an uncommon magnitude. To the *Rectum*, near the *Verge of the Cloaca*, adher'd a Pouch, full of a glandulous Juice, much like what the Naturaliſts deſcribe in the *Hyæna Odoriſera*, *the Rattle-Snake and the Polecat* (e); and which, no doubt, imparted that Fragrancy he us'd to remark in his very Excrements: Tho' when the Diſcharge was more than uſual, this extraordinary Perfume might poſſibly turn to a common Stink, as has been obſerv'd in other Animals. (e) The *Cæcum*, as happens always in a certain *Race of Creatures*, was entirely wanting (f). The Meſentery was very ſtramoſe, and the Lacteals obſtructed to that degree, as to be viſible: One of them, which ſeem'd to be the laſt allotted for the Period of this great Man's Life, had its Orifice impacted by three or four large Globules of the *Bilioſe Salts*.

The

(c) *Dr. Tyſon Phil. Tranſact. n.* 153.
(d) *Ibid.*
(e) *Phil. Tranſact. n.* 144, 153. *Blaſius Anatom. Brutor.*
(f) *Blaſius*

The Liver was immenſely big, divided into ſeven Lobes (*g*), and turgid with *Bile*; the Gall-bladder was of a Size proportionable, indeed very near equalling that of an Ox. From the *Ductus Choledochus*, beſide the Branch that enters the *Duodenum*, we diſcover'd, upon a nicer Enquiry, another inſerted immediately into the Stomach it ſelf. The Spleen was of a triangular figure (*g*) large, tenſe, and in ſome Places ſchirroſe; abounding with a thick heavy *Atra Bilis*. The Urinary Organs were all ſound, and were ſo far from having any rank Smell in them, that the few Contents there were left in the Bladder, very near approach'd the Nature of *Oil*. I ſhall, out of Decency, omit any Deſcription of the Parts of Generation, only that the *Teſtes* were moſtly hid in the Groin (*h*).

In the *Thorax* the *Thymus* was found to be as big as uſually it is in a *Calf*. The Heart was very flabby, and for the moſt part unſound and rotten: Upon the left Ventricle appear'd a very virulent Ulcer. The Lungs were *cramp'd*, *ſtreighten'd*, and much *incommoded* by the Bearing-up of the Diaphragm, occaſion'd by the great Inflation of the Stomach. Upon the ſame account, the Back, during the laſt Days of his Illneſs, was very up, and appear'd ſomewhat *gibboſe and hump'd*.

Upon opening the Brain there were evident Marks of the cruel *Ravages and Depradations* of the *Biliоſe* Principles. The *Dura Mater* was fretted, and wholly unſtrung. The Circumvolutions in the *Cerebrum* all ob-

(*g*) *Ibid.*
(*h*) *Ibid.*

literated, and the Surface quite plain and even; which Doctor *Willis* has obſerv'd to be the Caſe of ſome *particular Perſons*. (i) The *Vacuities* in this *Venter* were large to an uncommon Degree. The *Pineal Gland* was perfectly flaccid, ſo that it ſeem'd to have been incapable for ſome Time of giving any proper Directions to the Will. However the Nervous Syſtem was tenſe, and peculiarly adapted for *Vibration*.

I thought this Account would be acceptable to you, both as it might give ſome Light to Mankind into the Cauſes of Diſtempers, and more particularly likewiſe, as it might be of great uſe to confirm the *Doctrines* laid down by our late dear departed Friend.

(i) *Anat. Cereb. c.* 2.

April 4th, 1719.

I am,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.